

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

1. A hand held fishing gaff for manually engaging and lifting fish from water, comprising:

an elongated handle having a substantially straight main portion having a proximal end of said handle and a grasping or gripping portion arcuately extending away from a longitudinal axis of said straight portion and terminating at a distal end of said handle;

a fish engaging member having a substantially straight shank portion and an arcuately shaped hook portion terminating in a sharpened distal tip thereof;

said shank portion operably connected in substantially colinear alignment within, and extending from said proximal end, said shank portion being securely positionable in a plurality of different rotationally aligned positions whereby said hook portion is selectively positionably orientable about the longitudinal axis with respect to said grasping or gripping portion.

2. A hand held fishing gaff for hooking and lifting fish from water comprising:
an elongated handle having a straight portion at one end and an offset hand grasping portion at another end of said handle;
said grasping portion extending divergently away from a longitudinal axis of said straight portion toward a distal end of said handle;
a generally u-shaped fish engaging member having a shank portion and a hook portion thereof, said hook portion terminating at a sharpened

distal tip thereof, said shank portion supportively engaged generally coaxially into the end of said straight portion and being held therein in selected rotational positions about the longitudinal axis whereby said fish hook portion is selectively orientable into each of a plurality of positions with respect to said hand grasping portion.

3. A hand held fishing gaff for hooking and lifting fish from water comprising:
 - an elongated handle having a straight portion and an arcuate gripping portion, said straight and gripping portions substantially lying in a plane;
 - a fish hook having a shank portion connected into a proximal end of said straight portion and being held for rotation and limited longitudinal movement about a longitudinal axis common to said straight portion and said shank;
 - said gripping portion extending away from the longitudinal axis toward a distal end of said handle;
 - a fish hook detent interconnected between said straight portion and said shank portion, said fish hook being selectively self-locking by said detent into one of a plurality of positional orientations about the longitudinal axis and with respect to said gripping portion.
4. A hand held fishing gaff as set forth in Claim 1, wherein:
 - said handle is hollow and of sufficient interior air volume to render said fish gaff substantially buoyant in water.

5. A hand held fishing gaff as set forth in Claim 4, further comprising:
a resilient protective cover releasably attachable onto said distal tip of said
fish hook.
6. A hand held fishing gaff as set forth in Claim 4, wherein:
said handle has a uniform oval cross section to enhance grippability and a
sense of the orientation of said handle when gripped.
7. A hand held fish gaff as set forth in Claim 3, wherein:
said detent is spring loaded whereby pushing axially on said fish hook
axially moves and releases said fish hook from locking engagement
with said detent for rotational repositioning thereof into another one
of said plurality of positional orientations, releasing of said fish hook
thereafter relocking said fish hook into said detent in the other
selected fish hook orientations.